Trade Deficit

959. SHRI SHANKER SINH VAGHELA:
SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether India's trade deficit during the first nine months of 1988-89 has increased to more than Rs. 6,601 crores very close to the level it reached during the whole year of 1987-88; and

(b) if so, what would be its impact on India's economy and foreign trade?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. R. DAS MUNSHI): (a) India's trade deficit during the first 9 months of 1988-89 amounted to Rs. 6601.7 crores, whereas the trade deficit for the whole year of 1987-88 amounted to Rs. 6657.7 crores.

(b) As the trade deficit works out to around 2.5 per cent of GNP, it is unlikely to have any adverse impact on Indian economy. The increase in the trade deficit was, among other things, due to higher imports of essential commodities to meet the scarcities created by the previous years drought, the strong recovery of the economy during 1988-89 which required additional machinery, raw materials and other imported inputs to sustain high levels of industrial production, both for domestic market and export sector. While the former helped to contain the inflation in 1988-89, the latter has provided strong industrial base for generation of surplus for exports, competitive in international market both in terms of technology and prices.

Decline in export of SALT

960. SHRI SHIV PRATAP MISHRA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the export of Salt has declined during the last one year as a result of which there is a glut of Salt despite lower production;

(b) if so, the reasons for fall in export of Salt; and

(c) the steps taken to boost the export of Salt?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. R. DAS MUNSHI): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Liberalisation of the Export Policy on Salt, constant review of exports to identify new areas, enlisting the assistance of Indian Missions abroad etc., are some of the steps taken to increase the exports of salt.

Inquiry into purchase of Czechoslovak Pistols

961. DR. MOHD. HASHIM KIDWAI: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to refer to the answer to Starred Question 38 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 26th April, 1988 and state:

(a) what are the findings of the CBI enquiry into the purchase of Czechoslovak pistols;

(b) whether chargesheets have been framed against those involved in this deal; and

(c) what are the reasons for the delay in taking action or launching legal proceedings against those involved in the deal?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) and (b) The findings of the CBI will be known only after the investigation of the case has been concluded.

No, Sir. The case is still under investigation.

(c) The investigation of the case involves collection/examination of records and

documents of Ministries|Departments. The investigation also involves examination of several witnesses. All this requires time.

Bank operating in Uttar Pradesh

962. DR. MOHD. HASHIM KIDWAI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the names of banks operating in Uttar Pradesh as on 31st March, 1989;

(b) the total number of branches of these banks in the State as on 31st March, 1989;

(c) the amount of loans advanced by each of the banks for the weaker sections in Uttar Pradesh during the last three years; and

(d) the names of schemes under which these advances have been made?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) and (b) Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has reported that 7874 branches of banks were functioning in Uttar Pradesh as on 31st December 1988 (latest available). The names of these banks are given in statement. (*See below*).

(c) and (d) The present data reporting system of RBI does not generate information in the manner asked for However, the outstanding advances given to weaker sections by all scheduled commercial banks in Uttar Pradesh as at the end of December, 1985, December 1988; and June 1987 (latest available) were Rs 629.46 crores, Rs. 717.57 crores and Rs. 766.25 crores, respectively.

Advances are given to weaker sections under priority sector lendings and other existing poverty alleviation programmes, namely, Integrated Rural Development Programme (IRDP), Differential Rate of Interest (DRI) and Self Employment Programme for Urban Poor (SEPUP).

Statement

Statement showing names of banks functioning in Uttar Pradesh

Names of the Bank:

1. State Bank of India.
2. State Bank of Bikaner and Jaipur.
3. State Bank of Hyderabad.
4. State Bank of Indore.
5. State Bank of Patiala.
6. State Bank of Saurashtra.
7. Allahabad Bank.
8. Andhra Bank.
9. Bank of Baroda.
10. Bank of India.
11. Bank of Maharashtra.
12. Canara Bank.
13. Central Bank of India.
14. Corporation Bank.
15 Dena Bank.
16. Indian Bank.
17. Indian Overseas Bank.
18. New Bank of India.
19. Oriental Bank of Commerce.
20. Punjab and Sind Bank.
21. Punjab National Bank.
22. Syndicate Bank.
23. UCO Bank.
24. Union Bank of India.
25. United Bank of India.
26. Vijaya Bank.
27 Bank of Madura Ltd.
28. Bank of Rajasthan Ltd.
29. Bareilly Corporation Bank Ltd.